The Cryptozoology Review

Vol. 1, No. 2, Autumn 1996

Editor/Publisher: Ben S. Roesch
Associate Editor: John Moore

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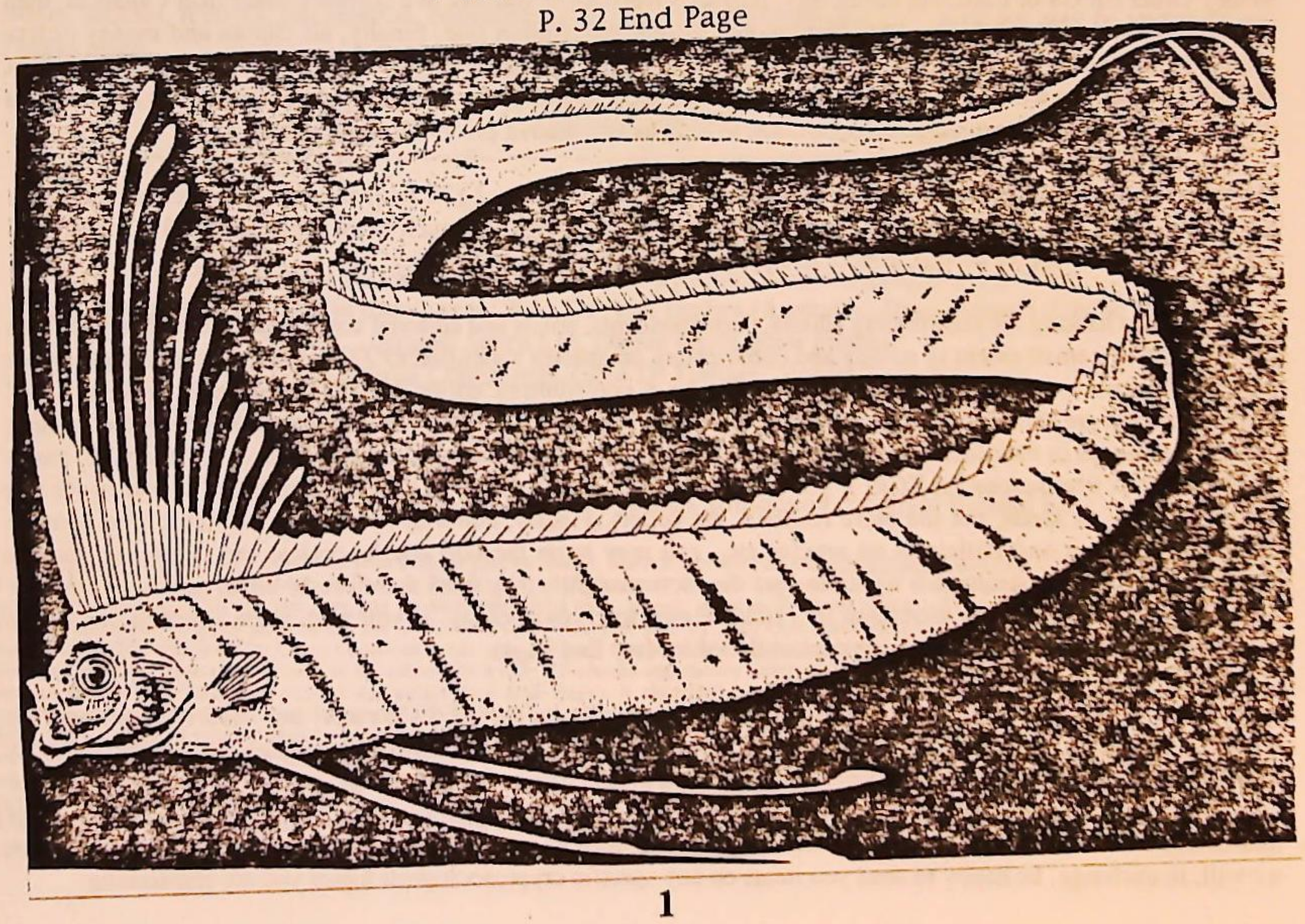

The Editor's Page

Hello again! Before getting down to the details of this issue, some bad news. I regretfully made a mistake on the subscription costs of *The Cryptozoology Review* (*TCR*). Last issue, subscription was listed as $10.00 Canadian funds (or the equivalent in another currency) for four issues annually. Unfortunately, I found that this fee is too low to cover the costs of making and mailing 4 issues of *TCR* each year, due to a mistake I made in calculating the cost of photocopying each issue. If I do not raise subscription fees, I will be standing to lose over $120 Canadian each year, an unacceptable situation of course. Therefore, from now on subscription will be as follows (in Canadian dollars and all sent by air mail): In Canada: $12.00; USA: $14.00 (or $10 US funds); Overseas: $18.00 (or the equivalent amount in any world-wide currency)

Please note these fees will not effect any of those who subscribed originally at the $10.00 fee until it is time for you to resubscribe in spring 1997. I of course sincerely apologize for all of this, but I'm sure you will agree that *TCR* is still worth this new annual price, and I really believe it is quite a bargain, compared to some other publications. I really hope the elevated costs won't scare anyone away when resubscription time comes around.

As for method of payment, it depends on where you reside. In the United States and Canada, you may pay by well-concealed cash, money order or personal check (all payable in either US or Canadian funds, whichever is more convenient for you). Overseas, you can pay by well-concealed cash (in any world-wide currency), or by International Money Order (in US or Canadian funds only, please). Overseas, if you pay in a currency other than Canadian, than please make sure you send the equivalent amount of the subscription rate. Finally, all checks and money orders should be made out to "Ben S. Roesch". Hopefully there will be no problems with payment, but if there is, it shouldn't be hard to work out. Also, for those that run their own cryptozoological publications, keep in mind that we are always willing to exchange subscriptions, as long as the relative prices are about equal.

Please note that back issues of *The Cryptozoology Review* Vol. 1 No. 1 (32 pp.), are now available for purchase. Vol. 1 No. 1 has articles on a mystery polychaete and the globsters, and much more. Cost: $CAN 3.00 each. You may also buy extra copies of Vol. 1 No.2 and upcoming issues for the same price.

We are always looking for contributing editors, correspondents, artists and editorial consultants. Contributing editors are involved to a small extent in editing and commenting on articles submitted to *TCR*, but more importantly write articles, reviews etc. for publication in *TCR*. To be a contributing editor, you must be ready to contribute! Correspondents are those who send in reports, clippings and other such info on cryptozoological matters in their area, or mentioned in their local newspapers etc. They may decide to write articles, reviews etc. Artists are obviously those who draw illustrations for *TCR*; if you wish to be a *TCR* artist, send us a small sampling of your artwork (we are looking for all kinds, but the more realistic, the better). Finally, editorial consultants are those who provide editorial comments and criticisms on articles etc., and may write the odd article, review etc. if they so choose. Because an editorial consultant is trying to "get the facts straight", they must therefore be either very well-read, or have some sort of university education in a field related to cryptozoology. If you wish to be a part of any of the above categories on *TCR*'s staff, please contact the editor (see End Page).

It should also be noted that even if you do not have the time to be part of *TCR*'s staff but want to contribute, we welcome unsolicited articles, reviews and other contributions. As we are a non-profit publication, we can only pay by copies (usually 2 for an article, 1 for a review). Also, please send us any clippings, articles and other material of cryptozoological interest that you may come across in newspapers, magazines and other publications! They are of utmost importance and value. On a larger scale, if you will send us cryptozoological items from your personal files, we will, in exchange, be happy to send you items on any specific cryptozoological topics you are researching.

You may have noted that the typeset of some items is smaller than others - this will give us more room in which to publish, and will help keep costs down. Of course it still should be entirely readable, and I hope you like the change. Please do not hesitate to contact with me with questions, comments, complaints etc. about this issue and *TCR* in general. On a related note, please find enclosed with this issue a questionnaire. Please fill it out and return it to the editorial address as soon as possible; your feedback is very important to us, and will help improve *TCR*.

Feedback for *TCR* has been great - I have yet to receive a discouraging word! You will see this when you read the new "Letters and Communications" section. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to tell us what you thought of our new venture. This issue, Autumn 1996, is filled with great stuff: a report on oarfish by marine biologist Richard Ellis; an important analysis of the migo film by Darren Naish, another packed Compendium of Cryptids and more! I hope you like it.

To enhance *TCR*, we will be adding new features frequently. One of these will be a "Research Requests" section where we will publish requests from other *TCR* readers for information, books, clippings - whatever - on certain cryptozoological subjects of which they are particularly interested, or of which they are involved in research on. The inaugural Researcher Requests is found in this issue in the Letters and Communications section, which is where it will reside from now on. As the current instalment has little to it, please help us expand this endeavour by sending your own "Research Requests" to the editor. Remember to include an address, phone number or other method by which you may be reached. A new upcoming column will be "From the Archives," where Associate Editor John Moore will disclose usually old clippings and information on certain, sometimes obscure, cryptozoological topics every issue. Look for this feature and others in upcoming issues of *TCR*, but for now read on, and keep sending letters, articles, reviews, information, comments, criticisms and anything else you think we may be interested in! Thanks again.

-- Ben S. Roesch

Editor/Publisher: Ben S. Roesch
Associate Editor: John Moore
Contributing Editors: Bufo Calvin, Loren Coleman, Darren Naish, Gordon Rutter
Correspondents: Terry Colvin (Southwest USA), Dr Peter Darben (Australia), Peter Massaro (United Kingdom)
Artists: Jarrett Lee, Darren Naish, Russ Fletcher
Editorial Consultants: Ellen D. Timiney, Robert Tuck Jr.

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On The Cover : The Oarfish (*Regalecus glesne*). Illustration copyright Richard Ellis.

The Cryptozoology Review is published four times a year by Ben S. Roesch and John Moore. Subscriptions are (in Canadian currency) $12.00 in Canada, $14.00 (air mail) in the USA, and $18.00 (air mail) overseas. Sample copies and back issues are $CAN 3.00 each. Method of payment: In US and Canada, you may pay by well-concealed cash, money order or personal check (all payable in either US or Canadian funds, whichever is more convenient for you). Overseas, you can pay by well-concealed cash (in any world-wide currency), or by International Money Order (in US or Canadian funds only, please). Overseas, if you pay in a currency other than Canadian, than please make sure you send the equivalent amount of the subscription rate. All checks and money orders should be made out to "Ben S. Roesch". If there are any problems with payment, contact the editor (see End Page): it shouldn't be hard to work out. Also, for those that run their own cryptozoological publications, keep in mind that we are always willing to exchange subscriptions, as long as the relative prices are about equal. How you can help: If you are interested in contributing your cryptozoological artistic, writing and/or editing skills to *TCR* (i.e. drawing pictures, writing and or editing articles), please contact the editor. We take unsolicited articles and artwork! Just send the editor anything you think we might be interested in, and we will look at it and get back to you. There are no contributor's guidelines, but please write your article professionally and always with references. We are non-profit, so payment is in copies (2 for an article, 1 for a review). Legal stuff: Everything in *TCR* is copyrighted! Please do not reproduce anything without permission. If you ask us, we will very likely say yes (as long as you tell us what for), and it'll save you and us a lot of trouble. Of course you may quote us and our articles, but please credit it to *TCR*. Thanks!

Letters and Communications

We welcome letters on any thoughts you may have about TCR or is contents. If you write us a letter, please tell us whether or not it is fine with you to publish it in the "Letters and Communications" section of upcoming issues.

Comments on the First Issue

[*The Cryptozoology Review*] is wonderfully done and complete. I wish you all the best for its future.

Dr Bernard Heuvelmans
Le Vesinet, France.

*

[*The Cryptozoology Review*] is very impressive.

Jonathan Downes
Editor, *Animals and Men*
Exwick, Exeter, England.

*

Congratulations on your new venture - it's sorely needed.

Peter V. O'Shea
Fine, New York, USA.

*

[*The Cryptozoology Review*] is most excellent ... Keep up with the excellent work you have done. This is the type of publication DESPERATELY NEEDED for some respectability in this field!

Gary Mangiacopra
Milford, Connecticut, USA.

*

I think you've done a bang-up job!

Richard Ellis
New York City, New York, USA.

*

An excellent new publication ...

Mark Chorvinsky
Editor, *Strange Magazine*
Rockville, Maryland, USA.

*

I was extremely impressed with the first issue.

Peter Massaro
Essex, England.

*

I was delighted to receive and read [the first issue of *The Cryptozoology Review*.] It is an excellent publication - a most worthy and valuable addition to the cryptozoological literature ... I particularly enjoyed [Ben Roesch's] feature article regarding "The Thing" - the cryptic polychaete of St Lucia. I was not previously aware of this cryptid, and [he has] performed an extremely useful service in bringing it to widespread cryptozoological attention in such a comprehensive, well-documented manner. I agree entirely with the conclusions drawn as to its likely taxonomic identity, and we must now hope that a complete specimen is brought to scientific attention in the not-too-distant future ... Once again, congratulations upon producing a first-class cryptozoological publication.

Dr Karl Shuker
West Midlands, England.

"The Thing" - A Specialist's View

Dr. Kristian Fauchald of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington has been working on Eunicidae and related polychaete families for years and recently published a comprehensive review of the genus *Eunice* based on all type material (original specimens) he could locate (1). Nearly 300 species were reviewed. For some species, including the widely reported *Eunice gigantea*, only the original description as *Nereis gigantea* Linnaeus, 1758 could be found, and this was extremely brief and considered inadequate to identify the taxon even to family. Dr. Fauchald does not indicate whether he has seen the illustration referred to by Linnaeus (see below). Linnaeus stated the habitat to be the Indian Ocean, and the figure referred to by him (fig. 7 on plate 81 in "_Seb. mus._" vol. 1) was labeled "*Millipoda marina amboinentis*" [Marine millipede from Amboina; "*Millepora*" and "*amboinensi*" in Fauchald (1992: 155) appear to be printer's errors]. Amboina is an island in the Banda Sea, eastern Indonesia. The description of a polychaete as a millipede is not unusual and occurs in several descriptions from the 1700s.

In addition to evaluating the original description, Fauchald reviewed interpretations by several later authors and concluded that the species upon which Linnaeus based his description is unidentifiable and that the Indian Ocean species of most later authors is *Eunice aphroditois* (Pallas, 1788), originally described from Sri Lanka (Ceylon). The (more recently collected) specimen examined by Fauchald was incomplete, with 529 chaetigers (segments with chaetae), 80 cm long and with greatest width of 22 mm at chaetiger 25. In his book on polychaetes of the Indian Ocean, Fauvel (2) describes the species as up to 1 meter and more, with a width of 20-25 mm (up to 1 inch). This is quite a bit smaller than the specimens reported from the Caribbean.

Marphysa sanguinea (Montagu, 1808) has been mentioned as a possibility, but also this species is too narrow, only up to 11 mm wide, which is a lot less than the "1.5-2 inches in diameter" [3.8-5.1 cm] mentioned by Flint Smith. A mistake like this seems unlikely. I don't know of any Eunicidae that become as wide as described for "The Thing."

If even part of "The Thing" could be collected and fixed immediately, Kristian Fauchald could probably confirm the family and perhaps even identify the genus on the basis of the parapodia and chaetae. Note the color in life and if possible get measurements before the worm (or part of such) is killed (fixed). If anyone finds a specimen of "The Thing", send Dr. Fauchald as much material from it as possible, and if you can't fix it in 4% formaldehyde in seawater (1 part commercial formaldehyde + 9 parts [by volume] of seawater), put it in very strong alcohol and make sure you have detailed locality data, including who, when, where, etc. Material without such is essentially useless. Contact Fauchald for details on how to ship the material so that it will arrive safely.

References:

(1) FAUCHALD, K. 1992. A review of the genus *Eunice* (Polychaeta: Eunicidae) based upon type material. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology* 523: x+422 pp.

(2) FAUVEL, P. 1953. *Annelida, Polychaeta. The Fauna of India including Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Malaya.* The Indian Press, Ltd., Allahabad. 507 pp., 1 map in pocket.

Dr Mary E. Petersen (a polychaete specialist)
Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen
Denmark

The Editor wishes to thank Dr. Petersen for taking the time to formulate the excellent response on "The Thing" printed above. Her comments are very valuable and add more much needed information towards solving the mystery

of St. Lucia's mystery polychaete, "The Thing."

Research Requests

Ben Roesch and John Moore are looking for a person capable of translating German articles to English, for a major cryptozoological article we are working on. If you are willing and able (and we hope someone out there is!), please contact Ben Roesch at the editorial address (see End Page). They are desperate!

Errata

John Moore apologizes to Jeff Meldrum for inadvertently stating on page 10 of *TCR* Vol. 1 No. 1. that he was an anthropologist. Meldrum is, in fact, a primatologist.

*

Ben S. Roesch apologizes to Dr. Joan Marsden of McGill University for mistakenly giving her first name as "Susan," in his article on "The Thing" on pages 12-19 of *TCR* Vol. 1 No. 1. It is unknown where Roesch came up with this name!

*

Though not truly an error, it should be noted that the Strange Web Site, mentioned in the Review and Resource section of Vol. 1 No. 1, is now situated at http://www.strangemag.com.

*

On page 3 of *TCR* Vol. 1 No. 1, an article from the *Victoria Times-Colonist* on a recent Caddy sighting was listed as a source, but the title and author of the article were unknown. We now know that this article was called "Caddy a little camera shy" and that it was written by Patrick Murphy (the article was reproduced in the *British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club Newsletter* 25: p. 13). Also worth noting is the fact that the photos allegedly taken (as reported in *TCR* Vol. 1 No. 1) of this Caddy were not very conclusive: "[T]he distance involved was [too] great for any significant detail to be visible." (Source: Anon. 1996. "Caddy resurfaces off Vancouver Island." *The British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club Cryptonews* Vol. 1, Issue 26: p. 1).

*

The short article "ISC Update" on page 9 of TCR Vol. 1 No.1 was not written by Loren Coleman as some may have suspected, but by Ben S. Roesch.

Send us your business card and/or samples of your publication (if you have one) and we'll list you here!

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Bill Green, Director

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A Compendium of Cryptids™

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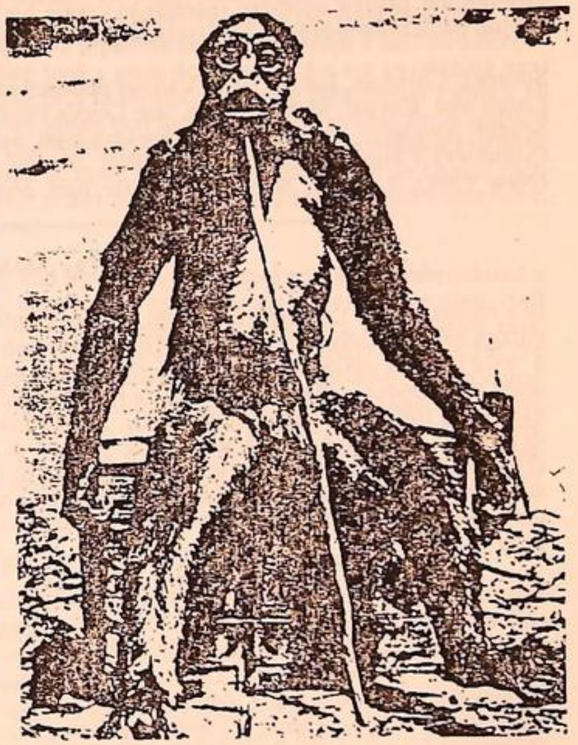
Written and Compiled by Ben S. Roesch

De Loys's Ape: Racist Hoax?

Bernard Heuvelmans, the father of cryptozoology, once called the South American ape "the only 'unknown' animal of which there is a good photograph." Of course he was referring to the now famous picture of a dead, strange looking primate propped up on a oil crate (see accompanying photo), also known as de Loys's ape. It was allegedly killed and photographed in 1920 by François de Loys, a Swiss geologist, after he came across a pair of the creatures in the vast rain forest of the Venezuela-Columbia border, while on an expedition (de Loys said he tried to bring back its skull, but it disintegrated in further travels). Soon, according to the story, the photo came to the attention of Professor George Montandon, a French anthropologist and friend of de Loys. In a scientific paper published in 1929 (and in several other papers and articles), Montandon declared that it was evidence for the existence of a species of ape in South America; the heretical thing about this, of course, is that no species of ape is known from South America! He even gave the photographed creature a scientific name, *Ameranthropoides loysi*, in honor of the alleged discoverer. However, many prominent anthropologists at the time, such as Sir Arthur Keith, were extremely skeptical (Keith thought it was a spider monkey), but Montandon continued to defend his find. Several cryptozoologists since then have also regarded the de Loys's ape in a favourable light, though there were also some who did not, such as Ivan Sanderson and Loren Coleman.



De Loys's Ape (*Ameranthropoides loysi*).

Thus, a surprise was to be had when I discovered, through personal communications with Michel Raynal and Loren Coleman, that Montandon was a racist, and that de Loys's ape was really a big hoax. In reality, the picture almost undoubtedly shows a large spider monkey (*Ateles belzebuth*). So why did Montandon do it? The reason lies in his racist ideas of evolution. Montandon believed that whites evolved from Cro-Magnon man, blacks from gorillas, and Asians from orangutans and gibbons. However, he did not yet have a suitable "ancestor" for Native Americans. His made-up *Ameranthropoides loysi* provided this. To go to all of the trouble of hoaxing the de Loys's ape just so he could "prove" his theory of human evolution true, it is obvious Montandon was a veritable mad-man. In any case, another chapter of cryptozoological history has been closed, at least until someone could possibly prove otherwise.

Despite the failings of *Ameranthropoides loysi*, the folklore, legends and sightings from various parts of South America of large, monkey or ape-like creatures should not be discounted (likely, Montandon played on these legends to create his imaginary de Loys's ape). The information behind these creatures is quite interesting, and is probably much more reliable than de Loys's ape.

Sources: Coleman, Loren. 1996. Various personal communications. February - April. // Coleman, Loren and Raynal, Michel. 1996. "De Loys's Photograph: A Short Tale of Apes in Green Hell, Spider Monkeys, and *Ameranthropoides loysi* as the Tools of Racism" *The Anomalist* #4 (Summer) // Heuvelmans, Bernard. 1958. *On the Track of Unknown Animals*. Hill and Wang (New York). // Raynal, Michel. 1996. Var. pers. comm. April.

The Mohan

In a recent post to the Internet Virtual Bigfoot Conference, "daemon66" (an email user id), a US citizen living in Columbia, mentioned that "in certain rural parts of Colombia, the people talk about a 'wild man' or spirit called Mohan, which bears certain similarities towards bigfoot. One of the main differences is that this creature is reported to take to the water when disturbed. He is also extremely fond of alcoholic beverages ... The Mohan is supposed to be a good diver and [is] able to hold his breath for quite a while under water." It is interesting to note that legends of the yeti also mention a fondness for alcohol: according to the stories, sherpas in the Himalayas would sometimes get a yeti into a drunken sleep by leaving some chang (a local alcohol) outside, and then they would kill it. Also, there are reports of sasquatches escaping into the waters of a local lake, river or pond.

Daemon66 continued in a later post: "The regions where we have Mohan sightings and legends are called Huila and Tolima, which are Colombian "departamentos," the equivalent of states (as in [the] United States). Both "states" are in mountainous regions of Colombia and are also very rural places with few large cities. [They are mostly comprised of] farms or undeveloped land. The Mohan stories normally talk about the creature staying near a river or lake. The "campesinos" (uneducated and poor farmers) leave aguardiente (a somewhat potent drink) or chicha (Colombian moonshine) to appease this spirit. The offering is usually taken and the Mohan drinks himself into a stupor. Another frequent tale is that this creature sometimes rapes young girls who wander alone near his domain."

Sources: "Daemon66." 1996. Posts to the Internet Virtual Bigfoot Conference. June 6 and 8.

Of Ducks and Plesiosaurs: Howick Falls' Monster

According to Bob Teeney, the Publicity Spokesman for Howick, a small town in Kwa-Zulu-Natal province, South Africa, a strange monster inhabits the pool at the foot of local Howick Falls. Locals say that when you peer over the edge of the 93 m (300 ft) high waterfall, an evil spirit which resides at the bottom exerts a "magical magnetism" which will attempt to suck you to your death, something that sounds more like a case of vertigo to me. To Teeney and several other locals, however, it tells that a monster is living below Howick Falls.

Teeney even says that he has seen the monster, which was 8 m (25 ft) long, and even has photos of it. The photos, according to a recent press release, are fuzzy and allegedly show the creature rearing its head from the waterfall pools. They cover the walls at Teeney's fast food restaurant near the waterfall. One photo taken by a tourist "shows a pipe-like neck rising from a half-submerged swollen 'body.' Three smaller 'monsters,' which look a great deal like ducks, are swimming next to it." Teeney believes the photos are evidence of a family of surviving plesiosaurs (which he incorrectly terms dinosaurs and also incorrectly states that they have been extinct for 6 million years - in fact they have been extinct for more than 65 my; also they are not known thought to have inhabited fresh-water), and he even has photos of three large eggs from which he thinks they hatched. To me the photos of the alleged monster sound like a family of ducks or other water fowl, and the eggs could be from any egg-laying animal.

Howick anthropologist Sian Hall says Teeney and other "sensation seekers" have embroidered a myth passed on by generations of Zulus in the area that a giant water snake lives in the pool. Hall wrote in a newspaper article: "There are no physical monsters in the Howick Falls. Giant eels, perhaps, and even huge otters, if that is your idea of a monster. We do not need to misinform the public, nor to use their gullibility to attract tourists to Howick," she said. I would tend to agree with Dr. Hall. If there really is a monster in Howick Falls (and Teeney's likely hoaxed pictures aren't evidence in the least), than a giant eel, huge otter or perhaps a giant snake are quite more reasonable, and more feasible, than the idea of a living plesiosaur. Despite this, the story of the monster (which might also be complete native myth) being a plesiosaur will surely become popular and will continue to attract visitors to Howick Falls.

Source: Colvin, Terry. 1996. "Howick Monster (South Africa)." Internet E-Mail. June 11.

The Spokane Lion

In Spokane, Washington, USA, a mysterious maned lion is running amok. According to contributing editor Bufo Calvin, "news reports included a large group of people (police and such) trying to flush it from the brush near the golf course, simultaneously banging pots and pans, setting off firecrackers, [and generally making a lot of noise]." The commotion provided no results. Calvin also found this short report from a local news station: "Spokane police and the Humane Society are joining forces to track down a pet African lion on the loose. The lion was spotted near the area of Sunset Boulevard and the Indian Canyon golf course. Officials aren't sure who the animal may belong to, but there have been reports in the past of a woman walking a lion in that area."

Loren Coleman passed along a more detailed newspaper article (from the *Spokesman-Review*) on the creature, detailing a specific sighting (at 5:45 AM on June 5, 1996) by Belen Grabb, a 44 year-old Nine Mile resident:

> Grabb had just passed a slow-moving car Wednesday when she saw the lion walk out of the bushes.
>
> I said, "Oh my God!" Grabb stopped her car and another car stopped behind her. The lion was skinny and looked haggard. She told herself to relax as she cried and her legs shook. "I didn't know what the intention was of this animal. I didn't know if he wanted to run or jump on my car," she said. The lion, which Grabb described as a "dirty beige" color, did her no harm. It looked at her car, shook its brown mane and meandered slowly across Canyon Drive, she said.

Not surprisingly, Grabb's sighting

> sparked two days of fruitless searches in west Spokane. Her description of a 500-pound African lion, which animal control officials believe is someone's pet, kept children inside for recess at a nearby school and rerouted horseback riders at Indian Canyon Riding Stables. There is a possibility the lion is responsible for the death of a lamb Thursday on Houston Road. Until Wednesday morning, Grabb had seen lions only in zoos. She never expected to see such a creature on her morning commute from Nine Mile to work at Lyn-Tron Inc. in Medical Lake. But she isn't worried about skeptics. She knows what she saw. Plus, she learned after speaking with a Spokane County Animal Control officer that someone else also reported seeing the animal before she made her report ... "She said she believed me because another person called and said he thought he saw a lion," Grabb said.

Also of interest in regards of this Spokane maned "lion" is the fact that, as documented by Coleman in his book *Mysterious America*, a big cat with "a shaggy black mane, light brown body, and a black tuft at the end of a long tail" (a very lion-like description) was allegedly spotted in the area of Tacoma, Washington in July 1976. Coleman has recently speculated that this 1976 "lion" may be related to the one being reported in the same state today, discussed in the above article.

An interesting thing about the recent reports is that they have not yet identified any owners for the "pet lion", and this led Calvin to theorize that this "pet lion" may in fact be a representatives of a relict population of the prehistoric Pleistocene American lion, *Panthera leo atrox*. This theory was originally put forward by Coleman (and later championed by Mark Hall) in *Mysterious America* to explain several sightings of maned big cats over the years in the USA. Of course, the old "circus train wreck" theory, or escaped pet theory, is still a very viable possibility, one with which we should be most supportive of until further evidence to the contrary is revealed.

Sources: Calvin, Bufo. 1996. Pers. comm. June 8. // Coleman, Loren. 1983. *Mysterious America*. (Boston/London: Faber and Faber). // Coleman, Loren. 1996. Pers. comm. June 8. // Sitaramiah, Gita. 1996. "Woman cried in terror as lion eyed car." *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, Washington), June 8.

Scottish Big Cat

Big cats are not restrained to the moors of England, as a recent sighting in Scotland testifies. The big cat, fitting the descriptions of others spotted in various parts of Scotland in recent years, was seen by a motorist on the Esplanade in Broughty Ferry on January 18 1996 a few hundred yards from nearby houses.

The witness, a Monifieth motorist, said he saw the creature when it was illuminated in his headlights as it crossed the road towards a railway line.

"I chased it in the car and it disappeared into the undergrowth," he said. "I saw its tail as it went out of sight. I could hear it going through the undergrowth. He added, "It was the size of a big dog , but more of a cat's body. It had a huge grey tail that trailed along the ground. The tail was bushy and the animal appeared furry with pointed ears. It disappeared on the Monifieth side of Buddies nightclub."

The sighting is not the first in Broughty Ferry; last year a couple were walking their dog when it disturbed a puma-like beast with a black coat. It also sought refuge on the railway line mentioned above.

Source: Article in the *Evening Telegraph* (Dundee), January 19 1996 - posted on the Fortean Times On-Line Reporting Service by Andy Cobley.

"Big Boy," "Wide Boy" and "Mono Brow"

Sounding ridiculously cartoonish, the names mentioned in the above title are actually nicknames given to three new species of sludge-dwelling, scavenging isopods (related to the woodlouse, common to terrestrial ecosystems). They were discovered in the Pacific Ocean off Australia's east coast, at a depth of 1 km. "Big Boy", a new species of genus *Bathynomus*, grows to 30 cm (1 ft), and is likely a ferocious counterpart for other smaller creatures living in the Pacific depths of Australia.

Jim Lowry, of the Australia Museum had this to say about "Big Boy": "We don't know whether they are predators, but we know they are scavengers and voracious eaters who will try to eat anything alive or dead. One of them even bit my hand."

"Mono Brow" and "Wide Boy" are similar species to "Big Boy," and are also scavengers. However, they are smaller. These three new species were actually only a very small part of what the scientists have discovered in this deep-sea area. More than 200 species of marine invertebrates (with more than 120 of them completely unknown) were discovered, and more than 100 new species of pea-sized shrimp-like crustaceans known as ostracods were also found.

However, it is "Big Boy" that really rules the scene in this deep-sea community, according to Lowry. "Not even the fish get into the depths where we found these creatures," he added. It should be noted that the absence of fish in areas where crustaceans are in great abundance is not unknown; at depths of 7 000 m (23 000 ft) off the Pacific coast of South America, in the Peru-

Chile trench, swirling masses of shrimps and amphipods (deep-sea relatives of sand fleas) have been photographed devouring baits set out by scientists; the bait is stripped within hours. And no fish has ever been seen or photographed in these area, with very good reason, no doubt.

Sources: Isaacs, John and Schwartslose, Richard. 1975. "Active Animals of the Deep-Sea Floor" *Scientific American* (October): pp. 85-91. // Williams, Jan. 1996. "Looking for a Good Time Big Boy?" *Animals and Men* 9: pp. 5-6.

The Seychelles Tortoise - Rediscovered

In the September 1996 issue of *Reptiles* magazine an interesting note was disclosed:

> "Several centuries ago, it is believed that at least 13 giant tortoise species existed on islands in the western Indian Ocean. With the exception of the Aldabra tortoise, all of these species were believed to be extinct by the mid-1800s.
>
> "In January 1995, however, the Nature Protection Trust located two captive giant tortoises that belong to a Seychelles species that was believed to be extinct. The identity was made by comparing the skeleton of a third dead specimen. This realizations did not occur earlier due to the similarity in appearance of these animals to the Aldabra tortoise.
>
> "The Nature Protection Trust has developed a conservation plan, based on a captive-breeding program, for this species. However, they are currently facing an obstacle: both specimens are male! Fortunately, the Trust believes that other specimens probably exist in captivity, which they hope to locate and include in the breeding program. Due to the difficulty in identifying these tortoises based on physical characteristics, the Trust plans to use DNA fingerprinting to identify conspecifics. (Source: *The Rephiberary*, #216, November 1995.)"

We must commend *Reptiles* for their informative report on the subject, but some readers may have discovered a major problem within: they never told the Latin name of this rediscovered tortoise! Luckily for us, another same-subject report in BBC Wildlife gave the elusive tortoise's name: *Geochelone arnoldi*, the Seychelles tortoise.
Sources: Naish, Darren. 1996. Pers. comm. July 31. // Strimple, Pete. 1996. "Reptile News and Trivia" *Reptiles*, September: p. 8.

Notes of Various New and Rediscovered Species

-- A fishing boat patrolling a seamount southwest of Easter Island in the summer of 1995 uncovered a new species of crayfish, or rock lobster, *Jasus caveorum*. It is the first new species to be ascribed to its genus in a century, and was described in a paper in the December 1995 issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*.
Source: Bille, Matt (Ed.). 1996. "New Animals Around the World" *Exotic Zoology* vol. 3, no. 3 (May/June): p. 2.

-- Off the coast of Oman and Somalia, 23 new species of fish were discovered in 1995. One of these fishes was a new moray eel which can grow to 60 cm, and which has a large black spot near its gill opening. Because of this latter trait, its discoverers, Drs. John Randall and Eugenia Böhlke (of the University of Hawaii and the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, respectively), dubbed it with the species name of *megaspilus* (no generic name was given in the *BBC Wildlife* item; therefore this specific name is rather useless), which means "large spot." A paper on this eel and the other new fish found in the survey was published in *Notulae Naturae*, The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, no. 472, pp. 1-5.
Source: Anon. 1995. "Spot the eel." *BBC Wildlife* vol. 13, no. 6 (June 1995), p. 26.

-- In 1995, after a four-year survey of the reptiles and amphibians of eastern Madagascar rain forests, Prof. Ronald Nussbaum and colleagues at the Universities of Michigan and Antananarivo reported that they had discovered no less than 106 new frog species and 26 new reptiles. Of 500 known species of amphibians and reptiles on Madagascar, nearly all are endemic.
Source: Anon. 1995. "Frogs of the Forest." *BBC Wildlife* vol. 13, no. 6 (June 1995), p. 26.

-- Edwards pheasant has been rediscovered in the wild in Vietnam, wildlife scientists reported on September 3, 1996. It was the first time Edwards pheasants have been found and captured in the wild since 1928, although there were recorded sightings in 1985. Two individuals of the species were taken alive by villagers in the Bach Ma National Park, according to the World Wildlife Fund. One of the birds died shortly after being caught. About 500 are kept in zoos in the West.
Source: USA Today's web site (http://www.usatoday.com), September 4, 1996.

-- In September 1996, the Electronic Telegraph reported that "[a] rodent thought to be extinct has been found living in a remote, arid region in the central Australian plains. The central rock-rat was last recorded more than 35 years ago in the West MacDonnell Ranges, west of Alice Springs. But a number of the foot-long creatures have been found by National Park volunteers."
Source: Anon. 1996. "'Extinct' rodent rediscovered." *The Electronic Telegraph*, September 11.

-- A new, as of yet unclassified, species (or possibly a sub-species) of rat, described as "cute" by one researcher, has been discovered on several of Hong Kong's outlying islands. Fifteen of these small rodents, which have white paws and a white underbelly, were caught in February 1996 using traps baited with peanut butter.
Source: Williams, Jan. 1996. "New Rat in Hong Kong" *Animals and Men* 9: p. 6.

-- *Tarsius syrichta* is a new species of tarsier reported in January 1996 from an island of the Sulawesi Archipelago, Indonesia. The tiny creature, which is grey and has a golden-brown stripe on its back (and whitish hairs around the mouth and nose), was discovered by a joint American/Indonesian team. There is some question as to whether the creature is a separate species in its own right or a hybrid between two other known tarsier species. If the latter is the explanation, then the above quoted scientific name will become invalid.
Source: Williams, Jan. 1996. "New Tarsier?" *Animals and Men* 9: p. 6.

-- A new species of marmoset was recently discovered in the Brazilian Amazon in June 1996. It is the sixth to be discovered in the region since 1990. The squirrel sized creature, named the Satere

marmoset (*Callithrix saterei*) after a local native tribe, has unpigmented facial skin, mahogany-colored fur and unique fleshy appendages on the genitals of both sexes, the evolutionary significance of which have scientists wondering. Dr. Russell Mittermeier, a primatologist and president of Conservation International, said he wouldn't be surprised if "we found another five monkeys by the year 2000."
Source: Line, Les. 1996. "New Branch of Primate Family Tree" *The New York Times*. June 18: C4.

Cryptozoology on TV

Cryptozoology was featured, fictionally, on television recently. The X-Files, a fictional (but based loosely on fact) show about two FBI agents who investigate strange phenomena, whether UFO's, ghosts, bigfoot, governement conspiracies, aliens etc., has recently become very popular among fortean circles, and the general public. Now, for cryptozoologists, a recent episode was shown in which Agents Mulder and Scully search for an elusive lake monster in the Carolinas that has been eating people. The killer turned out to be a alligator, but in the very last scene of the episode, a long-necked lake monster shows itself briefly and then dives under the water, minutes after a puzzled Mulder had left the scene. The episode was especially interesting because it mentioned cryptozoologists, various lake monster locales around the world, and most importantly, the lake in which the monster resided was called "Lake Heuvelmans." (Just as a note, there is also an episode of the X-Files dealing with feral humans living in a state park in New Jersey, USA. In this episode they discussed bigfoot briefly.)

Also on TV recently was a made-for-TV movie called "Beast," based on Peter Benchley's book of the same name, in which a seaside town is ravaged by a 100 ft long rogue giant squid until it is killed by the protagonist. The movie was full of teuthological errors, to say the least, but some of the squid effects were computer-animated and rather good, and of course the movie was fairly entertaining if not very factual.

Thanks to:

Martin Adamson, Bufo Calvin, Loren Coleman, Richard Ellis
Peter Massaro, John Moore, Darren Naish, Michel Raynal

for clippings, articles, reports and opinions

Three Recent "Sea Monster" Carcasses

by Ben S. Roesch

Over the summer of 1996, three new reports of alleged sea monster carcasses emerged. Unfortunately, at least two, if not all, have rather mundane explanations.

The Malaysian "Sea Monster" Carcass

The first carcass appeared on May 28, when the 25 ft (7.62 m) long skeletal remains of some strange sea creature were caught off Langkawi, Malaysia in the nets of a native fisherman. Footage of the creature was shown on the 6:00 PM Canadian National News (on CTV) shortly after its discovery, and was described by some viewers who I talked to as "looking like a shark", and was comprised of a rather white, quite "clean", skull and attached spinal column. The skull was described by one observer as "reptilian", and lined with large, carnivorous teeth. When I finally saw a photo of the skeleton, I could see where these people got their opinions (Fig. 1). However, it was also obvious that the creature was a mammal (because of its vertebrae). Native fishermen in Malaysia were calling the carcass a dragon, and the bones were finally turned over to ichthyologists for identification.

FIG 1. The Malaysian "Sea Monster" (Photo: Reuter)

While the carcass sounded quite intriguing and potentially unknown, the end was inevitable. As with virtually every "sea monster" carcass that has ever been completely examined by scientists,

the Malaysian carcass turned out to be a known species of animal. This time, the culprit was found to be a well-decayed orca, or killer whale (*Orcinus orca*). Fishery taxonomist Dr Mohamed Azmi Ambak made the identification, and said he based his findings on several skeletal drawings of various types of whales. He also added that the orca was likely an adult male because of its bone structure.

What is interesting about this account is that it is only the second time, to my knowledge, that a "sea monster" carcass has turned out to be an orca. The previous occurrence was in 1946, on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. Photos of this carcass appeared in an issue of *Natural History*, and it must be admitted that the carcass looks very intriguing. However, it was an orca after all, and you can tell this by the large tell-tale conical teeth; these are also the same teeth seen in the Malay "dragon." Orca it is!

The Block Ness Monster

On June 20, 1996, there was considerable commotion on Block Island, Rhode Island (USA) over a strange 14 ft (4.26 m) long carcass which fishermen Gary Hall netted in the waters surrounding the island. Photos published in the *Block Island Times* (the local newspaper) show a pointed head attached to a long, sinuous spinal cord (Fig. 2). As would be suspected, there was much public interest in it, and it attained the name "Block Ness monster." Local merchants made quick bucks

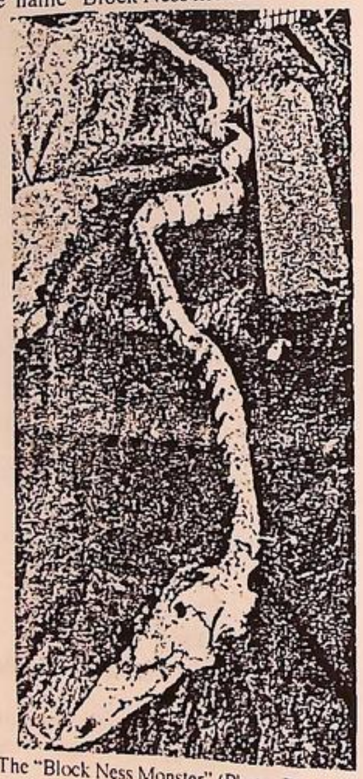


FIG 2. The "Block Ness Monster" (Photo: Block Island Times)

off its popularity with T-shirts and other merchandise. The skeleton was scheduled to be shipped to to the mainland in order to be examined by scientists at the University of Rhode Island and the National Marine Resources Center, but en route it was stolen from its transport by unnamed individuals who thought it would "fall into the wrong hands on the mainland"!

The story then became even more convoluted with the various rumours as to its identity, and of course, its whereabouts. Most scientists thought it was either a sturgeon or a shark. One researcher refused to do an identification of the skeleton, set up by its kidnappers, after the kidnappers said that they didn't want her to go public if it was a known species! One fishermen thought the creature was a mammal, because of an apparent "blowhole" on its head; in reality, this is impossible, as the vertebrae visible in the published photo are obviously not mammalian.

I have since not heard anything more on the subject, and do not know if the kidnappers finally surrendered the "Block Ness monster." In any case, I can safely say, after an examination of the photo of the "monster," that the culprit is the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), like so many other "sea monster" carcasses in the past. The vertebrae, rounded, circular, and strung together like beads, are typical of the basking shark, and the pointed head is obviously the rostrum (a cartilaginous, beak-like, anterior extension of the skull) of a basking shark. This latter feature is also very conspicuous on the 1951 Hendaye (France) "sea monster" carcass, pictured in Bernard Heuvelmans' *In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents*, which was also identified as a basking shark. Finally, the "blowhole" reported on the skull can be explained as being a foramen; foramens being passageways found in the skulls of all sharks that serve as channels for nerves and arteries. Richard Ellis tells me that "some of these nerves and arteries pass through openings on the dorsal surface of the skull, which could be mistaken for a blowhole."

Hopefully, the public, especially on Block Island, will pick up on this rather obvious fact, and will realize that they have been fooled again by the master of sea-serpent carcass impostery, the basking shark.

The "Sandcastle" Monster?

The Hancock Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, is presently exhibiting the photos of an alleged sea monster stranded in Scotland several years ago, in hopes that someone can identify it. I have seen the photos on the museum's home page (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/~nhancock/) and they show a strange carcass which appears to have very pronounced "ribs" along the sides of its body. It also appears rather artificial, almost as if it were built out of the sand it rests upon (John Moore shares this opinion). In any case, our newest staff member, Ellen Timiney, will be reporting on this carcass in an upcoming issue. We will also publish both of the available pictures at that point.

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Feature Article

(In which we present a comprehensive research article of cryptozoological nature)

Analysing Video Footage Purporting to show the "Migo" - A Lake Monster from Lake Dakataua, New Britain

By Darren Naish

Old news to all but the most poorly informed is that, in Jan/Feb 1994, a Japanese expedition team were successful in filming a large, swimming animal in Lake Dakataua, New Britain. Lake Dakataua is renowned in cryptozoological lore, with a number of sightings ascribed to its lake monster - the migo or migaua. Postulated identities have included a mosasaur, the giant Cretaceous crocodile *Deinosuchus*, and, most recently, a protocetid cetacean. This article is not intended to be a review or discussion of these identities, but merely a description of the animal filmed by the Japanese team: an end that has not been pursued elsewhere. In 1995, I was kindly invited to a private screening of the migo footage. Currently the only copy in the United Kingdom, this is owned by Jon Downes. He is the editor of *Animals and Men*, the journal of the Centre for Fortean Zoology, which is located in Exeter, England.

Migo morphology

No one has yet satisfactorily conveyed the appearance of the migo, as seen in the film. Published diagrams (1, 2) are highly schematic. This is mostly because, though clearly animate, the animal is amorphous, some distance from the camera, slightly out of focus, and, most importantly, highly "pixelized" due to digital enhancement. The effect of the latter is that all movements are jerky as material "moves" from one pixel to the next across the screen, and that areas of similar shade (including, for much of the footage, the water-object interface) are amalgamated. Smooth surfaces are obliterated, and replaced by "staircase" outlines. Nevertheless, the animal is seen for long enough and with sufficient resolution for a detailed analysis.

Unlike so many cryptozoological cinematic debuts, the migo footage is far from a fleeting glimpse. The animal moves sedately from right to left across the screen, almost exactly in parallel with the bank visible on the other side of the lake. It is dark in colour, and very low lying in the water so that a row of dorsal extremities are all that is visible for most of the time. The object does not form a single unbroken area above the water surface for all of the film, as there is frequently water in a gap between the back of the head and the low hump formed by the back (fig. 1). I am presently of the opinion that the 10 m (33 ft) estimate given by cryptozoologist Roy Mackal (1, 3) is far too high - judging from birds that appear in front of and behind the animal during the sequence, it appears that it is not more than 6 m (20 ft) in length, and probably less.

Because the animal moves uniformly as a continuous mass, corresponds with recognizable body plans (head-body-tail), and occasionally reveals parts of the body between the exposed extremities, the possibility that it represents more than one animal can be rejected.

The head has a distinctive profile and I was able to discern a distinct shape by repeated viewing. It is composed of two sections, a low anterior area, and a raised posterior area which is flat-topped (but see notes above on effects of digitalization). This hind area creates the impression of a shallow upturned box set on top of the lower portion of the head. Occasionally, a raised bump is discernible at the extreme tip of what must be assumed to be the snout. There is a single large black blob at the back of the raised portion (fig. 1).

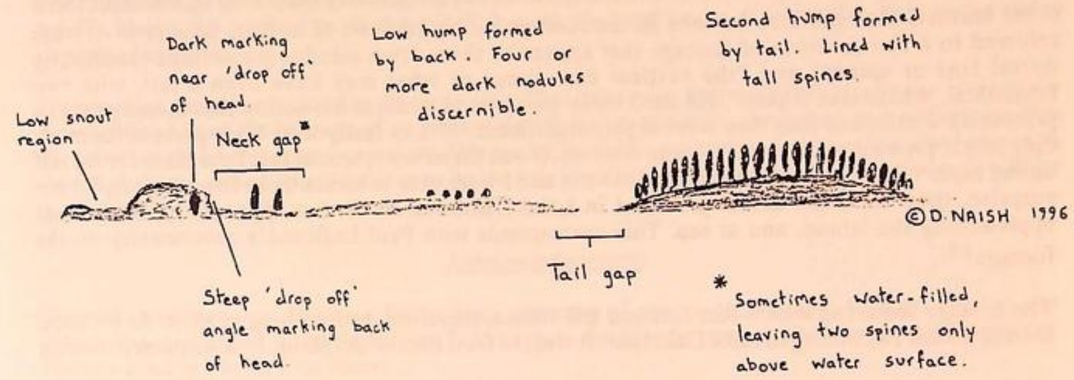
Low snout region
Dark marking near 'drop off' of head.
Neck gap*
Low hump formed by back. Four or more dark nodules discernible.
Second hump formed by tail. Lined with tall spines.
©D. NAISH 1996
Tail gap
Steep 'drop off' angle marking back of head.
* Sometimes water-filled, leaving two spines only above water surface.

FIG 1. Morphological aspects shown by the animal in the migo footage.

Immediately behind the head is a lower area in which, oddly, two vertical spines are seen to project. These are dark, and there are always two (fig. 1). We must assume that they are set upon the animal's neck, and, while this part of its body is visible at times during the footage, often the two spines are the only part seen to project above the water surface. At these times there is a water-filled gap between the head and the start of the back. I believe the spines have been distorted by digitalization.

The "back" of the animal begins after the neck gap. At times, it forms a very low hump out of the water, and has at least four small, dark nodules on its uppermost surface. It does not appear to move vertically in the water. It is approximately three times the length of the head. Toward the tail of the animal, it descends at a shallow angle into the water, and there is then another water-filled gap before we reach the tail.

The tail is the most problematic part of the animal revealed by the footage. It forms another shallow hump, slightly higher out of the water than the back, and has triangular vertical spines along its entire length. It is of approximately the same length as the hump formed by the back. The cause of much confusion, the result being interpretation of the animal as mammalian, is that the tail appears to move vertically in the water. Often it is entirely absent, and then rises above (what appears to be) the water surface. However, I believe this effect to be, partially, an artifact caused by the medium.

All of these features are annotated in fig. 1.

Eliminating confusion with dolphins

My initial interest in the migo and its background came as a result of claims that the animal filmed

on location was a whale, and furthermore one of the hypothetical surviving archaeocete whales, so often used to explain sea serpent sightings. As can be determined from the description above, no diagnostic features are evident that would allow this animal to be seen as belonging to any one of the known groups of swimming mammals. The allocation of the creature to Mammalia is due to interpretation of what appears to be vertical undulation (see above).

Unfortunately, the cetacean "status" of the migo has been erroneously supported by confusion with other animals that can also be seen in the footage. In his reviews of it, Karl Shuker (1, 3) has referred to a few seconds of footage that appear to show "two slender projections resembling dorsal fins or spines" and "the vertical emergence of what may have been a tail, with two horizontal, whale-like flukes." He used these glimpses to endorse his notion that the migo was a protocetid whale, and thus they were highly significant - if they really were body parts of the migo they might prove that it was a cetacean after all. It was therefore essential that I see them for myself on the tape. With Shuker's assistance, Downes and I were able to locate these few seconds. To our surprise, they were not actually filmed in Lake Dakataua at all, but apparently from a boat approaching the island, and at sea. This corresponds with Paul LeBlond's commentary on the footage (4).

The footage featuring whale-like fins and tail-flukes, therefore, had nothing at all to do with the animal filmed swimming in Lake Dakataua. It was, in fact, film of dolphins. In a sequence lasting

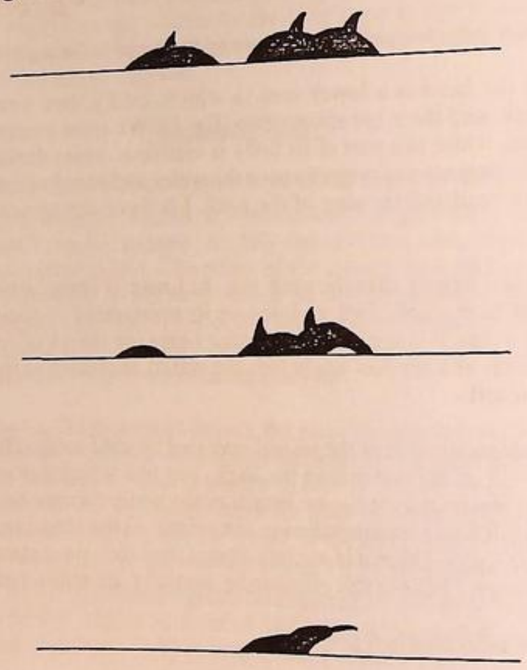

FIG 2. Highly schematic representation of the 2-3 second dolphin sequence that appears in the same documentary as the "migo" footage.

only two or three seconds, three silhouetted dolphins (species of either *Delphinus* or *Stenella*) were seen to rise and then dive: as each dolphin dives, it presents a smooth rolling shape with a dorsal fin. As the three are silhouetted and close together, they appear as a single large mass in which it is difficult to see where one animal ends and another begins. The first dolphin, somewhat ahead of the other two, dives first, but does not rise high enough out of the water for its tail to emerge above the surface. The second and third surface and dive almost simultaneously. A beak and foreparts of a dolphin are seen for a fraction of a second. With the second dolphin in front of the third there is a brief false image of a single rolling shape with two dorsal fins. Finally, the tails of both appear briefly above the surface, with the tail flukes of the third being discernible. This sequence is illustrated in fig. 2.

By proving, therefore, that the footage in which cetacean fins and flukes appear is entirely disassociated from the footage of an animal swimming in the lake, the better part of the case that the latter might be cetacean is removed. We are left with the swimming footage described above. A thorough discussion of what I believe to be the true identity behind the animal in the footage will be published elsewhere (5).

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Jon Downes for private viewing of the migo footage, to Karl Shuker for assistance, and above all to Tokuharu Takabayashi for kindly sending the tape to the Centre for Fortean Zoology in the first place.

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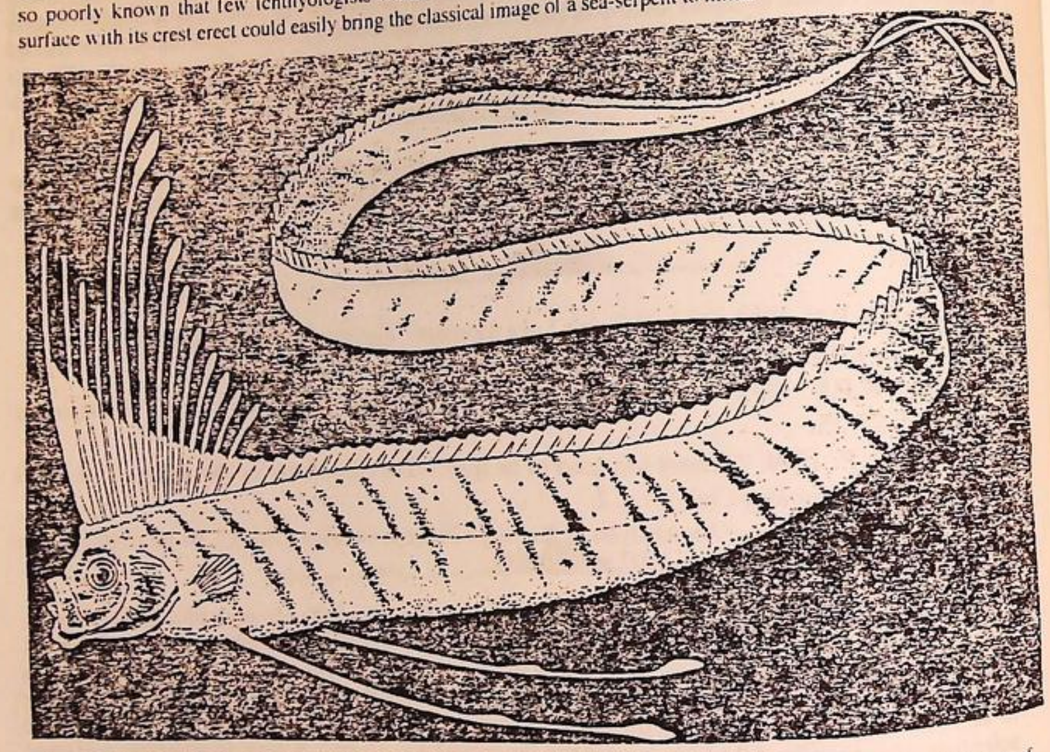
(5) Naish, D.W. In prep. "An Analysis of the Migo Footage (working title)." To be published in the Centre for Fortean Zoology 1997 yearbook.

[Editorial Comment: As Darren Naish briefly discusses Roy Mackal's estimate of a 33-foot length for the animal in the migo film, *TCR*'s Associate Editor, John Moore, contacted Mackal for his reaction to Naish's new estimate. Mackal said that he was not present at the time that the film was made, the 33-foot figure was only an estimate based on seeing the film, and noted that it is difficult to say much in regard to the length from the film. Mackal also stated that a team of Japanese scientists who examined the film decided that the animal was 15 meters long. In addition, and most interestingly, he said that a second film of the migo was obtained by the same Japanese film crew some time around August 1994. It apparently shows a smaller individual, and the animal is considerably closer to the camera than the creature in the first film.]

THE LONGEST FISH IN THE OCEAN?

by Richard Ellis

Even though they have rarely been seen alive -- and even more rarely by people who know what they are seeing -- the ribbon-fish or oarfish (*Regalecus glesne*), sometimes called "king-of-the-herrings," may be responsible for some of the more dramatic sea-serpent stories. Known to reach a length of 26 feet, the oarfish is a laterally flattened creature with a coral-red "cockscomb" of spines on its head, and a red dorsal fin that runs the length of its body. It is so poorly known that few ichthyologists would venture to guess at its habits, but an oarfish swimming at the surface with its crest erect could easily bring the classical image of a sea-serpent to mind.



Sometimes known as "king-of-the-herrings," the oarfish (*Regalecus glesne*) is known to reach a length of 26 ft, and is therefore the longest of all bony fishes. With its fragile, ribbon-like body, bright red dorsal fin and "cockscomb," this fish, occasionally seen undulating at the surface or washed ashore, is believed to have been responsible for several "sea-serpent" sightings. (Illustration copyright Richard Ellis, 1996)

No one but a trained ichthyologist would recognize an oarfish at the surface, so if we assume that this creature sometimes pokes its head out of the water while swimming at the surface, we might be able to account for some sea-serpent sightings. We don't even know how big it gets: Gerald Wood's *Guinness Book of Animal Facts & Feats* lists oarfish measuring 45 and 50 feet, but there is no evidence to back up such claims. Regardless of its length, it would not make a very formidable sea-serpent, since it is a fragile, almost transparent creature that is totally

seem to have been nothing more than gigantic eels. The monster described as having the head of a horse with a flaming red mane is the Oar-fish or Ribbon-fish ... a species which probably grows to more than fifty feet in length, and may sometimes be seen swimming with undulating movements at the surface of the sea." Bernard Heuvelmans (in *In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents*), tells of a naval officer in 1860 who sent a letter from Bermuda to the British journal *The Zoologist*, in which he said that he had found "a strange sea monster... the animal being no less than the great sea-serpent." He then went on to describe an oarfish in great detail.

The oarfish has a silvery, ribbon-like body, a pair of long, slender pelvic fins with flattened tips (the "oars" of its common name), and a scarlet, cockscomb-like crest (part of the dorsal fin) that it can erect above its head. It is probably the longest bony fish in the world, but even though Wood's Guinness Book of Animal Facts & Feats cites lengths of 45 and 50 feet, there are no documented records of specimens longer than 26 feet. Nelson's 1984 Fishes of the World and Smith and Heemstra's 1986 Sea Fishes - two of the most reliable general works on fishes - give 8 meters (26.5 feet) as the maximum known length.

With the rare exception of an occasional oarfish that washes ashore and can be examined, virtually nothing is known of its biology. (When examined, the stomachs were found to contain the tiny, shrimp-like euphausiids known as krill, the predominant food of some baleen whales.) A videotape shot from the Japanese submersible Shinkai-6500 contains what is probably the first underwater footage of a live oarfish. It was swimming almost at the surface.

In July, 1996, William Shachtman, an ophthalmologist from Ft. Collins, Colorado, was snorkelling near shore from a dive-boat in the Sea of Cortez, when his sister Judy Schwartz, aboard the boat, noticed "a long dark figure" approaching him. She and the dive-boat's operator Greg Willis first thought it might be a large shark, and began yelling to Shachtman to get out of the water. But by the time he heard them, the figure was only a few feet away. Shachtman turned to face the creature, and instead of seeing the streamlined body of a shark, saw a strange red crest, attached to a long thin body "slanting way down into the water." (The quotes are taken from an article in the Los Angeles Times, dated August 7, 1996). The strange looking creature was, of course, an oarfish. It swam past Shachtman obliviously, and Willis, realizing that the animal was harmless, dived in and closed in on it, noting that part of its tail was missing, possibly bitten off by some animal, perhaps a shark. Willis swam right up to the fish and saw "...an eye, a large, saucer-shaped eye with a black pupil, set into a huge silver face crested by long, lucent red fins that the fish arched higher as I approached from behind." He grabbed the fish and went for a little ride, but the fish shook him off and headed for shallow water, where it thrashed around and died. They hauled it up on the beach, and measured it at 18 1/2 feet. It was then cut up in pieces and taken to the University of Baja California Sur at La Paz. Photographs confirm its identification and size.

In *The Search for Atlantis* (*A La Recherche de l'Atlantide*), Jacques Cousteau and Albert Falco described their descent into the crater of the volcanic Aegean island of Santorini in the "diving saucer." They saw coral, algae, some sponges, and then, along with some other fishes, they spotted a school of what they called regalaes, "extremely rare very-deep-water fishes called "king of the herrings" by the ancient authors... Their long serpentine bodies are laterally flattened, and covered with little brown spots. The odd dorsal fin looks like a Japanese fan. On its head there are plumes made of fin spines, and under the body are two long, threadlike ventral fins. Their very long dorsal fin extends from the nape to the tail."

I was inclined to accept this story, and in fact, with a footnote about oarfishes never before having been seen in schools, I put it into *Deep Atlantic*, my book about life in the depths, scheduled for publication in October, 1996. It is too late to remove the Cousteau reference from *Deep Atlantic*, but now that I think about it, I have decided that the Santorini "event" never happened at all. First of all, it reads too much like a textbook description of the fish. Second, it is the only description of the fish occurring in schools. But the thing that convinced me that Cousteau made it up was the realization that his books are filled with wild exaggerations and obviously fabricated experiences.

There is neither time nor space to review all of these errors, but a couple will have to suffice. In *The Whale: Mighty Monarch of the Sea* (1972), Cousteau writes that no one has ever seen a giant squid, but the following year, in Octopus and Squid: The Soft Intelligence, Cousteau (and Philippe Diolé) say that they saw one. As they looked out of the window of the submersible, they saw "a very large cephalopod, only a few yards from the minisub, watching the vehicle as it drifted past ... It was unearthly sight, at once astonishing and terrifying." He wrote, "I understand how formidable an opponent a giant squid must be." In the whale book, he also tells of snagging a giant squid suction cup that was 24 inches in diameter. This is approximately the size of a manhole cover. In fact, the largest suckers ever found on the tentacles of giant squid have been about 1 1/2 inches in diameter, despite all the stories that you (and Cousteau) have read about "giant sucker marks" on sperm whales.

The Cousteau books are filled with similar exaggerations. In another instance where I chose to believe him, I quoted his account (found in *The Shark: Splendid Savage of the Sea*) of a killer whale that surfaced with a "nine- to ten-foot shark... held crosswise in its mouth." I suppose this is possible, just as the sighting of the giant squid is possible. But it strikes me as a little curious that Cousteau is the only one to have ever seen these things. If other "events" are so unlikely, why should we believe his completely anomalous story of a school of oarfishes in the caldera of Santorini? For that matter, why should we believe he saw any oarfishes at all?

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Two Yowie Reports

by Paul Cropper

[Editor's Comment: The following two reports deal with Australia's sasquatch-like creature, called the Yowie or Yahoo. It should be noted that in the first report, Cropper has removed the main witnesses' names to protect their privacy, but he has them on file.]

A Recent Investigation

Yowie Report: Kempsey, New South Wales, Australia. Investigated in February 1995.
Location: Dirt road bordering Ballengarra State Forest, 11 km south-west of Kempsey, New South Wales, Australia.
Date of Sighting: Sunday, January 22, 1995. Time: 17:30 (daylight saving).
Witnesses: Romney, 11 and James, 10.

Outline of the Sighting

Both Romney and James had been playing with a friend on a nearby property. Around 17:30 they decided to walk the short distance back to Romney's parents' property (about 1-2 km). The dirt track from the friend's house runs up the side of a hill. After two property gates, the track joins a public dirt road that runs along the top of the ridge line. On one side of the road are a few scattered properties, and on the other side there are steep, wooded gullies that fringe the Ballengarra State Forest.

After the boys had passed through the last gate, they turned left and started walking downhill along the road. About 100 metres from the [edited] property gate, the boys heard some noises; James thought it may have been sheep or goats and Romney felt it was a bird. Romney also said he heard two heavy footfalls at this point.

After the noises, both boys looked ahead, down the road, and noticed an animal standing about 5-7 metres away, in amongst the ferns and lantana bushes that fringe the embankment on the left-hand side of the road and close to a gum tree. The animal was slightly hunched over and facing away from the boys. As they watched, it straightened up, and began moving its head from side-to-side; Romney felt the creature was "sniffing".

Their descriptions (obtained in separate interviews) of the animal were as follows:

Romney: The creature was 8-9 ft tall and totally covered in dark brown or black hair. The hair was several inches long, "wild and scraggly" looking. It was "way bigger" than an average person; it seemed to be "in between a human and a gorilla", as it was "not quite the shape of a human and not quite the shape of a gorilla". It was a "lot wider" than a human: it was "massive". Its neck was of average length. No facial features were noted, nor arms nor legs.

James: The creature was a dark, browny colour, and "pretty high". There was long, wild hair all over it. He did not see arms or legs, just the "back of a big, hairy thing". He said it resembled a "monkey or gorilla".

After only a few seconds the boys turned around and began to walk - and then run - back to the [edited] property. Romney said he heard more footsteps as they moved away from the animal. They both said they were very frightened. They told one of their older friends at the [edited], and later asked him to drive them home as they refused to walk back past the spot where the animal had stood.

[Edited] heard the story from the boys the next day and decided, on their insistence, to visit the spot. She was amazed to discover a series of long, broad tracks at the site. Although still skeptical, [edited] later discussed the sighting with Dave Reneke (a friend of a friend who lives in Kempsey; I met him while investigating this report), who passed on the report to me.

On-Site Investigation

I travelled to Kempsey on Saturday, 4 February. I initially spoke with [edited], who told me of the

incident that happened the fortnight before. While still skeptical, she had been impressed by the boys' continued insistence that they had really seen the creature. She told me that the boys were still "spun-out" the next morning, and they wanted her to go up to the spot to look around.

[Edited] and I then visited the site of the encounter, where a number of broad, deep impressions were still visible on the overgrown track next to the dirt road. I took several photos, then we moved on to Romney's property where I interviewed him at length about his sighting.

Romney's story impressed me; he was an intelligent, articulate and apparently very level-headed boy. His account of his experience was succinct and several efforts on my part to lead him into extraneous details proved fruitless. It is interesting to note that it was mainly Romney's account that made [edited] feel that there may have been something to the boys claims - she felt that Romney just would not make up such a story.

Later that afternoon I again visited the site of the encounter and took more photos and measurements as well as two casts of the clearer impressions.

That evening I spoke to the other boy, James. James was not as articulate as Romney, but he confirmed all of the major details in Romney's story. It was interesting to note that it seemed clear to me that James had not spoken much about his experience; his mother and father appeared quite surprised at the details that came out during our interview.

The Imprints

Despite the fact that two weeks had elapsed since the sighting and it had rained during this time, I was able to locate 16 impressions around the site of the boys' sighting and took two plaster casts. These imprints started at the top of the slope and continued in a definite trail along the road down to where the animal was seen standing. The impressions were roughly oval in shape, although with one end slightly wider than the other and with no distinct toes.

The distance between prints varied from 50-100 cm. There were gaps between prints larger than 100 cm, but these may have due to the nature of the ground, as some areas would not have shown tracks. The average length of the imprints was 30 cm long by 18 cm wide. Almost all of the prints were around 3-4 cm deep; by comparison, if I stood on my boot heel with my entire weight I made a 2 cm heel impression. The soil at the bottom of the prints was quite flat and hard-packed.

No arch or ball was distinctly visible, but one cast shows what could be the rounded 'ball' of a foot. It is interesting to note that, while the imprints did not immediately resemble human feet, both casts have the general shape of a large foot.

An Interesting Reaction

Around 4 hours after I took the two casts, I left both prints with David Reneke as I went to interview James. Both of the plaster casts still had a substantial amount of soil attached - I had only given them a partial clean at the [edited] property. On my return, David told me that his dog (a poodle/maltese cross) had reacted in an unusual manner to the casts as they lay in the middle of their lounge room.

David and I decided to attempt to duplicate the animal's reaction, but first we placed a large lump of wood in the middle of the room to see how the dog would normally react to the presence of something unusual. The animal seemed uninterested in the wood and happily ran all around the room.

The dog was then removed and one cast was placed in the room. The dog was again allowed in and its reaction was immediate - it stayed 1-2 metres away from the cast and simply stared at it. It continued to stare for at least 1-2 minutes; then it bared its teeth and commenced growling, then barking at the print. David, who was sitting on the opposite side of the cast, attempted to call the dog over to him but the animal refused to budge. The dog continued this behaviour for as long as it was in the room. David's other dog showed no interest in the cast.

David told me he believed that the dog had always been particularly 'sensitive' to animal scents. He also indicated the dog had only acted this way once or twice

before, always at items with definite animal origins and scents.

Another View

A few days after my visit to the area I attempted to arouse interest in some of the Port Macquarie National Parks & Wildlife staff, so they would hopefully inspect the tracks. Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful, but was referred on to a local wildlife research consultant of 30 years experience, Kel (last name omitted for privacy).

Kel visited the site on the weekend of 11/12 February with four others. He inspected the tracks, which were still clearly visible despite further heavy rain. Kel told me that he was able to locate another 4 tracks further down the slope, yet a wider search revealed no additional impressions. He found no hair samples or other indications that any large animal had made its way through the bush.

Kel indicated that he believed that whatever had made the tracks had weighed around 500 kg (1 100 lb). Each track was heavily compressed at each end, however there was a strip in the centre of each imprint where the soil was not heavily packed down. He did not believe the tracks were related to what the two boys had seen. Kel mentioned that there was a bulldozer track close to the imprints - he felt the two were somehow connected, though did not indicate how this was at all possible.

A Nineteenth Century Report

The second report is an interesting 19th century Yowie case which further supports the assertion that the Yowie was present prior to aboriginal colonisation. This report comes from the diary of a North South Wales drover (a cattle-dealer of sorts) and is quoted verbatim (spelling uncorrected - no full stops) from his own account of the event published in 1898 ('The Early History of the Northern Districts of New South Wales' by William Telfer, a manuscript in the University of New England Archives [Tamworth, New South Wales] A147/V213):

> "then they [the aboriginals: PC] have a tradition about the Yahoo they say he is a hairy man like a monkey plenty at one time not many now but the best opinion of the kind i heard from old Bungaree a Gunnedah [a New South Wales town: PC] aboriginal he said at one time there were tribes of them and they were the original inhabitants of the Country before the present Race of aboriginals took possession of the Country he said they were the old Race of blacks he was of Darwins theory that the original race had a tail on them [no yowie reports I know of involve tails, however: PC] like a monkey
>
> "he said the aboriginals would camp in one place and those people in a place of their own telling about how them and the blacks used to fight and the blacks always beat them but the yahoo always made away from the blacks being a faster runner mostly Escaped the blacks were frightened of them a lot of those were together the blacks would not go near them as the Yahoo would make a great noise and frighten them with sticks. he said very strong fellow very stupid the blacks were more Cunning getting behind trees spearing any chance one that Came near them this was his story about those people i have seen several stockmen in the old times said they had seen this hairy man his feet reversed [an interesting reappearance of that old yeti motif: PC] when you thought he was coming towards you he was going away
>
> "i had an experience of this gorilla or hairy man in the year 1883 i was making a short cut across the bush from Keera to Cobedah [both in northern New South Wales: PC] via top bingera it was a very hot day i was on foot when after crossing those steep hills being tired camped for about two hours this left me late the sun was only an hour high having to go about ten miles went about five miles getting darker came on a creek of running water had to camp for the night made a camp on a high bank of the creek lit a fire and made myself comfortable my dog laying down at the fire alongside me

"i sat smoking my pipe the moon rose about an hour after when you could discern objects two hundred yards away from the camp i heard a curious noise coming up the creek opposite the camp over the creek i went to see what it was about one hundred yards away he seemed the sam as a man only larger the animal was something like the Gorilla in the Sydney museaum of a darkish colour and made a roaring noise going away towards top Bingara the noise getting fainter as he went along in the distance

"i started at daybreak Getting to Bells mountain at about 9 oclock Mr Bridger lived there stopped and had breakfast i was telling them about the night before they said several people had seen the gorilla about there he was often seen in the mountains towards the Gwyder [River: PC] and about mount Lyndsay. i was thinking how Easy this animal could Elude pursuit travelling by night camping in Rocks or Caves in the daytime.

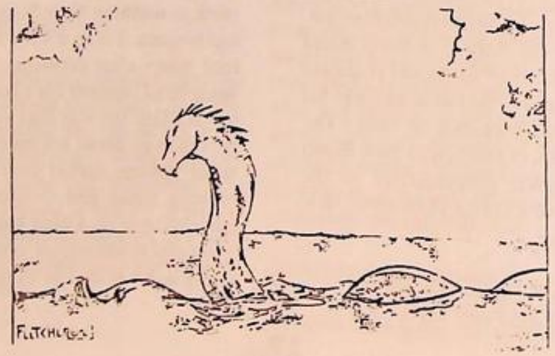
"after those blacks the Governors so many out after them [?: PC] i do not think it wonderful that those wild animals should escape being caught as they are faster than the aboriginals by his own account. some people think they are only a myth but how is it they were seen by so many people in the old times fifty years ago [around 1850: PC]."

This is an interesting old case that raises some interesting points. Telfer's own sighting sounds legitimate to me, and his account of how the yahoo (the original aboriginal name for the Yowie) was able to move so fast and elude the aboriginals also tallies with several modern witnesses.

For example, one recent case of a fast-moving yowie I investigated occurred in July 1990 and involved a group of five hunters out shooting kangaroos near Oberon, New South Wales. They watched in their spotlight as a large, dark, humanoid figure ran up a rocky, waist-high tussock-covered hill "...like a dog shot in the arse...," as the main witness told me. He said he'd never seen anything move that fast in his life, and he'd hunted all over that area. Tony Healy, my co-author for *Out of the Shadows* (a book published recently covering many Australian cryptids, including the Yowie), also investigated another report where the creature moved so fast, the witnesses claimed it was "...like a cartoon"!

As Telfer commented in the above quoted passage, could the oft-reported fast speed of Yowies be the reason they are so elusive? In any case, they will remain this way until someone turns up some hard evidence for the existence of a large primate living in the wilds of Australia - presuming it exists at all.

Editor's Comment: In a forthcoming issue, Glen Kuban will respond to Cropper's recent investigation with a critical viewpoint.



Reviews and Resources

Books

Feature Review

In Search of Prehistoric Survivors: Do Giant "Extinct" Creatures Still Exist? by Karl P.N. Shuker. Blandford (London) 1995. £18.99. 192 pp., hbk. ISBN 0-7137-2469-2.

Reviewed by John Moore

Karl Shuker's recent book *In Search of Prehistoric Survivors* examines the possibility that various cryptids might in fact really be surviving members of animal species thought extinct. This is, of course, a broad field, as virtually every cryptid has some potential prehistoric ancestor.

In any case, after a foreword by Roy P. Mackal, an acknowledgements section, and an Introduction covering known examples of "living fossils," Shuker starts on the main text of his book. This is composed of four chapters, which cover, respectively, terrestrial and semi-aquatic reptiles and amphibians, water monsters, flying cryptids (although this chapter also includes a ground-dwelling bird), and mammals (except for those covered in the water monster chapter).

The first chapter, on reptiles and amphibians, opens with a lengthy section on the best known of the Congo's alleged living dinosaurs, the mokele-mbembe, together with similar reports from other parts of Africa. This is followed by a discussion of other claims for dinosaurs from the Congo (the emela-ntouka and the mbielu-mbielu-mbielu), as well as cases of possible dinosaur survival from Asia, North America, and South America. He also discusses giant salamanders and monitor lizards.

Shuker's next chapter, on air-borne cryptids, again opens with a long section, this time on possible living pterosaurs. This is followed by a short item on giant vampire bats, and a long section on reports of very large birds of prey in North America. After this, he discusses three lesser-known cryptozoological birds: the makalala, the bennu bird, and the du.

Shuker discusses the water monsters in the next chapter. Not surprisingly, it begins with a long section on the long-necked sea serpents and lake monsters, such as the Loch Ness monster. The next section is rather long as well, and focuses on a group of creatures that includes both some lake monsters (such as ogopogo) and some sea serpents (such as *Cadborosaurus*). The next section is on crocodile- or mosasaur-type sea serpents. All of the remaining sections are rather short, and include giant sea turtles, out-of-place coelacanths, placoderms from Australia, giant sharks, possible living eurypterids (or "sea scorpions"), and the biblical leviathan.

The final chapter is devoted to the mammals. Shuker discusses many different types of animals in this chapter, including, among others: the Queensland marsupial tiger, the "devil-pig," surviving

giant ground sloths, the minhocão, the Nandi bear, surviving mammoths, Bornean tapirs, and the Irish elk. Finally, Shuker spends a brief two pages in summary of possible prehistoric survivors in the primates.

Shuker then closes the book with a conclusion, an appendix on cryptozoology periodicals, and an extensive bibliography.

Each chapter ends with a "Stop-Press" section of recent news. There are abundant black-and-white photos and drawings scattered throughout the book, and a section of color illustrations in the center. There is also a well-done index.

Unfortunately, there are also many zoological errors. On page 15, for example, Shuker speaks of "aquatic" dinosaurs; all known dinosaurs were terrestrial or, at best, amphibious. No doubt Shuker is really referring to the giant marine reptiles of the Mesozoic, which were only distantly related to the dinosaurs. Also, in several places he shows photos of dinosaur models with legs bent out to the side, whereas dinosaurs are now thought to have held their legs underneath their bodies (pp. 30, 40, and one photo in the colour plate section).

At certain points, Shuker's logic is also rather poor. After their alleged land sighting of the Loch Ness monster, the Spicers described the creature as "an abomination" and "a loathsome sight." Shuker accepts this as being evidence that these creatures are reptiles as opposed to mammals (p. 100). Similarly, William Hagelund's sympathy for a captured *Cadborosaurus* is, in Shuker's opinion, evidence that that type of sea serpent is a mammal, and not a reptile (p. 106). While it is true that most people find mammals cute and reptiles "loathsome," this is hardly a good basis for founding any taxonomic speculations.

(One other point needs correcting. Shuker states (p. 165) that radiocarbon dating techniques "do not appear to have been carried out" on the supposedly recent Utah *Camelops* skull. A study of this sort was indeed conducted; the date arrived at was 11,075 +/- 255 years before present, definitely not recent as Shuker suggested. [Nelson, Michael E., and Madsen, James H., Jr. 1979. "The Hay-Romer camel debate: fifty years later." *Contributions to Geology, University of Wyoming*, vol. 18, pp. 47-50.])

However, despite these various shortcomings, Shuker's book is a useful reference and an excellent review about what is presently known about cryptozoological "prehistoric survivors," and will be enjoyed by all those interested in cryptozoology.

Mini - Review

Centre for Fortean Zoology 1996 Yearbook edited by Jonathan Downes. £10.00, available from the Centre for Fortean Zoology, 15 Holne Court, Exwick, Exeter, UK EX4 2NA. 185 pp., spiral bound. ISBN 0-9 512872-4-9. Jonathan Downes runs the Centre for Fortean Zoology in Exeter, England, and also publishes the excellent cryptozoology magazine *Animals and Men*, featured in last issue's periodical reviews. This yearbook is a collection of many articles and papers that could not be fit into the publication lineup for *Animals and Men*, and is an excellent compilation! Articles range from living dinosaurs and mysterious birds to Nessie, mystery hominids, flying snakes and sky beasts, and more. Most of the articles are interesting and well-

done. There are some typographical errors, but overall this does little to undermine the efforts in hand here. I highly recommend this yearbook. - *BSR.*

Periodicals

By Ben S. Roesch and John Moore

The Bigfoot Record. 21 Benham St. Apt. F, Bristol, CT, 06010, USA. Editor: Bill Green. Cost: Free. This newsletter is both interesting and fun to read, presenting newsclippings, short articles and reviews every few months or so. The editor, Bill Green, is director of the New England Bigfoot Info Research Center and has investigated many reports of bigfoot in the US in the past, and has gathered much evidence and information on bigfoot. He welcomes new sightings, info, etc. His newsletter is put together rather roughly, but it is still easy to read, and of course it is free, so I would definitely suggest checking it out! - *BSR.*

Bigfoot Co-Op. 14602 Montevideo Drive, Whittier, CA 90605, USA. Organizers: Constance Cameron, Rich Grumley, Peter Gutilla, Tom Muzila, Dennis R. Ruminer, and George R. Turner. Cost: $8 US funds in the United States, $12 US funds elsewhere. Bigfoot Co-Op comes out six times a year, and there are about 10 pages in each issue. Much of the content of Bigfoot Co-Op is summaries of newspaper and magazine articles about bigfoot that have been culled by the readers of the Co-Op. There are also many editorials and articles about bigfoot by well-known experts, such as Dmitri Bayanov, Ray Crowe, and John Green. I recommend Bigfoot Co-Op to anyone with an interest in bigfoot-type creatures. - *JM.*

BILK. Augustastraße 85, 76437 Rastatt, Germany. Editor: Ulrich Magin. Cost: in Europe 15 DM; rest of the world 20 DM. This bimonthly, 2 page publication is an excellent worldwide round-up of news almost exclusively on water monsters (there is sometimes news on various fortean matters). It appears in English and is fun to read. I recommend it! - *BSR.*

Cryptozoologia. Association Belge d'Etude et de Protection des Animaux Rares. Square des Latins 49/4 - 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium. Editor: Eric Joye. Cost: in Belgium 1500 FB; in rest of Europe 1700 FB or 280 FF; rest of the world $50 US (plus $15 for shipping). This is an interesting publication, with great articles by the likes of Michel Raynal and interesting news bits. However, subscription is a little steep and it is published exclusively in French. However, if the French language is not a problem, I would definitely recommend this publication. Other good points are that it appears monthly, and each issue is up to 16 pages in length. Also, each issue is illustrated. - *BSR*

Nessletter. Ness Information Service, 7 Huntshieldford, St. John's Chapel, Weardale, Co Durham, DL13 1RQ, UK. Editor: Rip Hepple. Cost: £2.75 UK or $10 US funds. Nessletter comes out six times each year, and each issue is four pages long. Most of the information in Nessletter is about Loch Ness of course, but there are often news items on other water monsters. A Nessletter subscription will certainly be enjoyed by anyone interested in water monsters. - *JM.*

Track Record. Western Bigfoot Society, 8622 North Lombard, Portland, OR 97203, USA. Editor: Ray Crowe. Cost: $20.00 US funds in the United States, $30.00 US funds elsewhere. The Track Record is an excellent sasquatch newsletter that comes out 10 times a year, and there are occasional special issues that are not part of a regular subscription. Every issue has much information on recent, and older, sightings of the sasquatch. There are also summaries of the most recent meetings of the Western Bigfoot Society, and Peter Byrne, director of the Bigfoot Research Project, has an article in every issue. Each issue is usually about 15 pages long. - *JM.*

End Page

(By which we inform you of various important matters)

Contributors for this Issue

Paul Cropper is a Marketing Manager with a major Australian telecomunications company. His interest in Australian mystery animals started in 1977 when he was 15 years old. He is co-author of *Out of The Shadows* with Tony Healy (Pan Mcmillan Australia 1994). He can be reached by e-mail at paul.cropper@s054.aone.net.au

Richard Ellis is recognized as one of America's foremost authorities on marine life. He is the author of *The Book of Sharks*, *The Book of Whales*, *Dolphins and Porpoises*, *Men and Whales*, *Great White Shark* (with John McCosker), and *Monsters of the Sea*. He can be reached by e-mail at rellis@tribeca.ios.com.

John Moore is a grade 8 student in Park City, Utah, U.S.A., who has been researching cryptozoology for 7 years. He is also interested in paleontology (especially Vendian and Cambrian faunas), and many other areas. He is an avid Wagnerian, and can be can be reached by e-mail at moore4@sisna.com.

Darren Naish is an independent zoological researcher, best known for his interest in dinosaurs, the fauna of New Zealand, cetaceans, and, of course, cryptozoology. He acts as an advisor to colleagues on the vertebrate fossil record and owns a large and ever expanding library. He lives in Southampton (UK) with a lizard, a frog and a girl. He can be reached by e-mail at dwn194@soton.ac.uk.

Ben S. Roesch is a grade 11 student in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, with a keen interest in cryptozoological studies and research. He is well-read and very interested in marine biology (particularly sharks), animal predatory behaviour, and general zoology. He also enjoys the wonders of punk rock, mountain biking, and surfing.

How to Contact Us

Any correspondence, manuscripts, etc. should be directed to the editor:

Ben S. Roesch
Editor, The Cryptozoology Review
137 Atlas Ave.
Toronto ON
Canada M6C 3P4
phone: (416) 653-4955
e-mail: bz050@freenet.carleton.ca

Coming Soon in TCR. The case for the giant great white shark (by Darren Naish); enigmatic beaked whales (by Darren Naish); a review of sea monster carcasses from around the world (by Ben S. Roesch); rediscovered mongooses (by Jon Downes); mysterious tracks in a Mexican cave (by Ben S. Roesch), great news coverage and much more! The next issue will be out in December/January.